automatic promotion regardless of their performance;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether the scheme is proposed to be made applicable to other Central Services also;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) if answer to part (c) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (e) Promotions of IAS officers from the junior scale to the senior scale are made on the basis of suitability for such promotions having regard to the length of service and experience of the eligible officers. Promotions to Selection Grade and above of the eligible officers are made by selection on merit with due regard to seniority. Similarly, promotions from one grade to another in the Central Services are based on an assessment of suitability of the eligible officers to hold the higher posts. While Government will continue to lay emphasis on merit, there is no proposal to introduce any new scheme.

Officers on ad-hoc basis in Pondicherry

1840. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 558 given in the Rajya Sabha on 21st November, 1985, and the reply to Unstarred Question 2488 given in the Rajya Sabha on 12th December, 1985 and state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the exemption given in the year 1972 to the officers of the Pondicherry Administration imposes condition that the officers who are below the age of 45 should appear for departmental test;

(b) if so, for how many officers special exemption has been given by the Pondicherry Administration under the Pondicherry Civil Services Rules, with details and under what circumstances; and

(c) whether it is a fact that still there are officers who are holding the post of Entry Grade as well as Selection Grade who have not passed the departmental test who are below the age of 45, if so, what action was taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL SECURITY (SHRI ARUN NEHRU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No promotee officer of Pondicherry Civil Service has been given exemption subsequent to the exemption given to some officers in 1972

(c) There are no promotee officers in Pondicherry Civil Service below the age of 45 years who have not passed departmental test. However, there are 5 direct recruit probationers who have not yet qualified in the departmental test.

Discontinuation of N-Formula for allotment of officers of IAS cadre

1841. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government discontinued N-Formula relating to the year of allotment of officers appointed to the I.A.S. cadre; and

(b) how many officers have been appointed under this Formula?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The year of allotment of a Non-State Civil Service officers appointed to the I.A.S. by Selection is determined ad-hoc by the Central